“STICK TOGETHER”

“We’ve got to stick together”... Isn’t that what we Australian workers have always said in our struggles?

In the big strikes the Australian workers fought from the ’nineties to the early ’forties, we said:

* “All out together—all back together!"
* “An attack on one is an attack on all!”
* “No victimisation!”

If a mate has tough luck, is sick or injured, we always try to share the burden. We don’t hesitate when there’s an accident; we go in regardless of danger—into the mines, into the ship’s engine-room, into the whirring machinery, to help save a mate.

WE HATE AND DETEST

* The man who lets his mates down, the blackleg and the man who crawls to authority;
* The fair-weather friend who is missing when his help is most needed;
* The man who promises to repay a debt and wriggles out of it.

What would you say if a bunch of scabs beat you up—while your fellow-trade unionists said, “Hold on, we’re coming”—and then, 18 months later, said, “We’re not ready,” and then still later said, “We’re leaving the problem to the managing director!” Your language would be unprintable.

But that’s how we are treating our Russian workmates.

RUSSIAN WORKERS ARE ASKING

For two years the Red Army, a workers’ army, has taken the weight of the Nazi Army, giving the British Commonwealth a breathing space. Nearly two years ago the British Government, in the name of the British Commonwealth of peoples, promised a Second Front.

British and Australian workers are involved in that promise of a Second Front, as well as Governments. Pressure from the workers can induce the Governments to honor their promise. Our Russian fellow-workers, celebrating the anniversary of their 26 years of Socialist victory, are asking:

“When are we going to keep our word?”

When do we give full play to our traditional sense of solidarity and working-class justice, to the trade union principle of sticking together?

When are we going to wipe out for ever the stains of appeasement, of the let-down of our comrades in Spain and Czechoslovakia—by opening the Second Front?

Our Russian comrades are no longer in danger. They are on top, tramping forward to victory over the wreckage of the fascist legions.

It is our good name that is in danger.

We have got to stick with our Russian mates in action—now and in the future. We have to match their efforts in the war against fascism.

We must topple over those political barriers that now stand in the way of England’s invasion armies.

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